would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague, Mr. John Fernandes, concerning the Kaiga nuclear power plant.

Need to improve the working of the Indian Council of World Affairs

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I consider it my good fortune that when I rise to make this Special Mention, the hon. Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, is present here because my Special Mention is about the Indian Council of World Affairs. I am drawing the attention of this House and, through this House, the attention of the Government to the very bad conditions prevailing in the Indian Council of World Affairs.

The ICWA is an institution of national and international importance. It is also an important academic organisation. It was founded in the year 1943 with the object of promoting the study of Indian and international affairs and also foreign policies.

This institution is also a registered society under the Registration of Societies Act. Our great national leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H. N. Kunzru were its founders. Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru himself was its President from 1943 to 1947. Dr Kunzru was its President from 1948 to 1966. Then, Sardar Swaran Singh functioned as its President from 1976 to 1981. The Council, in its formative years, developed itself as a distinguished forum for discussing the Indian and international affairs.

Now the Council is being mismanaged. Low-paid employees are not being paid their salaries, and some of them have also been dismissed arbitrarily without assigning any reasons. There have also been complaints about the poor management of the ICWA and deterioration in the stock of its library.

A Bill to declare the ICWA as an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected thereto was passed by Rajya Sabha on the 5th of September, 1990, but, subsequently, the Lok Sabha was dissolved. Therefore, the Bill could not be passed by the Lok Sabha, and it lapsed.

In reply to a Starred Question in Rajya Sabha, put by Shri Sukomal Sen on the 4th of September, 1991, the then Mininster of External Affairs replied that the Government was aware of the innumerable complaints made by the readers, researchers and employees of the institution about the gross mismanagement of the institution. The Minister furher said that the Government was considering various measures and proposals, including the possibility of re-introducing the Bill in Parliament to improve the working of the institution to restore its original character.

Further, in reply to another question in this very House on the 9th of December, 1991, put by Smt. Veena Verma who is also a member of its body, the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Solanki, replied that the present position was that the ICWA was not an institution of national importance and that the proposal to reintroduce the legislation in that regard had been received and that it was under the active consideration of the Government.

Then, a Standing Committee was formed. This is the First Report of the Standing Committee of the External Affairs Ministry, which was presented to the Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha on the 27th of April, 1993. Since then, more than a year has lapsed. After dealing with the situation, the Committee has recommended this, and I would like to read it:

"The Committee was informed that the question of revamping and revitalising the functioning of ICWA has been engaging the Government's active consideration. The Committee feels that it is high time that the ICWA was salvaged and resurrected in an autonomous institution of national importance before it is too late. The Committee urges upon the Government to appoint a high-powered committee without any further loss of time to review its functioning and to suggest necessary modalities for achieving the purpose. The Committee desired that the recommendation of the review committee and the action taken thereon be intimated to them."

Sir, this matter was also raised by me in this very House on the 11th of December, 1991.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly conclude.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I am concluding in only one-and-a-half minutes.

The then Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, also replied this on June 29, 1992, and I will read only three or four lines.

"Dear Shri Malaviya,

"I am writing with reference to your Special Mention raised by you in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 1991, regarding mismanagement by Indian Council of World Affairs."

Then, he writes:

"I would like to assure you that we are also considering ways to revitalise the functioning of ICWA."

Sir, the matter was raised in Rajya Sabha several times. The Standing Committee has also submitted its recommendations in April, 1993. The hon. Minister is present here. I have been informed that the employees and so many other persons have also met the Prime Minister as well as the Minister concerned several times in a delegation. Therefore, Sir, through you, I would request the Government kindly to take steps immediately to improve the functioning of this instiution which, as I mentioned earlier, is an institution of international and national importance.

Mr. Bhatia, will you give some assurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): I have heard you.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Kindly give some assurance.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Malaviya Ji, the Minister is not responding. Therefore, I take up the Government Motion. The Hon. Minister, Shri K. V. Thangka Balu, to move the motion.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to say something before the Minister move the Motion.

REFERENCE Contd.

Re. Government motion on the Twenty-Eighth and the Twenty-Ninth reports of the erstwhile commissioner for SC and ST and the Fifth, the sixth, the Seventh and the eighth reports of the National commission for SC and ST.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि मंत्री जी अभी यहां माननीय सदन में उपस्थित हुए हैं शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट एंड शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्ज की रिपोर्ट के बारे में कुछ कहने के लिए और हम लोग वर्ष 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 और 1985-86 की रिपोर्ट के बारे में चर्चा करने जा